IN THE CLAIMS:

1-49. (Cancelled).

50. (Currently Amended) Method for the drying a leather side of pelts from furred animals which have a leather side and a fur side, comprising the steps of:

applying a pelt stretched on the outside of pelt board, which is formed of a hollow distension element having [[a]] surfaces which [[has]] have an openwork structure and bound a cavity extending lengthwise through the interior of the distension element, with the leather side facing the surfaces of the hollow distension element, and

securing the pelt in on the pelt board by the drawing of a holding-bag over at least a part of a lower end of the pelt so as to press the pelt against the board,

mounting the pelt board with the pelt thereon in an upstanding position and

drying of the leather side of the pelt by replacement of air inside a cavity of the distension element by ~~causing air to flow through~~ by exchanging the air within the cavity of the hollow distension element by directing a flow of air through the cavity via at least one of an opening in a foot end of the hollow distension element and openings in a protruding top portion of the hollow distension element.

51. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 50, [[1,]] where replacement of the air inside the hollow distension element is carried out by placing at least one distension element [[in]] on a cooperating drying aggregate comprising an encapsulation which has a cavity, at least one first opening for the at least one distension element in an upwardly facing surface thereof, further openings lying in the upwardly facing surface near the respective at least one first opening within an area covered by said foot end [[ends]] of the respective pelt board, so that the further openings connect with the cavity in the respective distension element which extends upwardly from the encapsulation, ~~so that the air in the cavity of the distension element which is placed in the first opening of the upwardly facing surface is changed by replacement of the air in the cavity~~ wherein said flow of air is produced by means of an air replacement arrangement connected to the cavity of the encapsulation, said further

openings in said upwardly facing surface and the opening in the foot end of the hollow distension element.

52. (Currently Amended) System for drying the leather side of pelts from furred animals which have a leather side and a fur side, comprising:

pelt board, which is formed of a hollow distension element having a cavity extending lengthwise therethrough, the outside of which adapted to have a pelt drawn, stretched and secured thereover for drying with the leather side facing towards the surface of the hollow distension element,

wherein the hollow distension element has a front end, an open foot end and an outer surface with an openwork structure having a plurality of openings communicating with said cavity of the distension element,

wherein the open foot end of the hollow distension element cooperates with a drying aggregate comprising an encapsulation with a cavity connected to an air replacement arrangement,

wherein said encapsulation comprises at least an upwardly-facing surface with first openings which cooperate with a lower part of the foot end of the hollow distension element for supporting the distension element on the upwardly-facing surface, and further openings which communicate with the cavity of the distension element via the open foot end, so that the air in the cavity of a distension element placed on the upwardly-facing surface is changed by replacement of the air in the cavity by means of the air replacement arrangement, said further openings in the upwardly facing surface and the open foot end of the hollow distension element.

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53. (Currently Amended) Hollow distension element pelt board for the drying of a pelt placed thereon with a leather side of the pelt stretched and held on an outer surface of the pelt board, wherein the pelt board has a longitudinal axis, a first transverse axis and a second transverse axis, a front end for engagement in a cranium end of the pelt, and a foot end which has at least one opening, wherein the pelt board has at least a first and a second ~~arched~~ convex outer surface with an open structure and which define a cavity between the convex

outer surfaces which taper in the direction of the longitudinal axis from a front end toward the foot end of the pelt board, and wherein the first and second ~~arched~~ convex outer surfaces of the pelt board are configured in a substantially symmetrical manner around at least two of the said axes, and wherein at least one opening in the foot end is connected to said cavity, and wherein a stubby projecting element is arranged in a substantially transverse manner to the longitudinal axis of the board in the direction of the second transverse axis at said foot end for vertically mounting of the pelt board in an opening in a support surface.

54. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 53, the length of the pelt board in relation to the longitudinal axis in the direction of the first transverse axis and the second transverse axis substantially evenly decreases extending from an area of the pelt board near the foot end in a direction toward the front end, wherein the front end is rounded, and wherein the length of the pelt board in directions of the first transverse axis and the second transverse axis is essentially constant.

55. (Currently Amended) Hollow distension element pelt board for the drying of a pelt placed thereon with a leather side of the pelt stretched and held on an outer surface of the pelt board, wherein the pelt board has a longitudinal axis, a first transverse axis and a second transverse axis, a front end for engagement in a cranium end of the pelt, and a foot end which has at least one opening, wherein the pelt board has at least a first and a second arched surface with an open structure and which define a cavity, and wherein the first and second arched surfaces of the pelt board are configured in a substantially symmetrical manner around at least two of the said axes, and wherein at least one opening in the foot end is connected to said cavity, ~~according to claim 53,~~ wherein the first and second arched surfaces have a first grooving which is oriented substantially in the direction of the longitudinal axis.

56. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 55, wherein the first and second arched surfaces have a second grooving arranged in a substantially transverse manner in relation to the orientation of the first grooving.

57. (Currently Amended) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 56, wherein the extent of the second transverse grooving ~~grooves~~ is limited to an area nearest the foot end.

58. (Currently Amended) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 56, [[53,]] wherein [[the]] tops of grooves of the second grooving are aligned, and where parts between two consecutive groove tops, extending from a groove top nearest the foot end towards the front end, is inclined towards a substantially planar part, and where a part between the substantially planar part and a following groove top is essentially vertical.

59. (Currently Amended) Hollow distension element pelt board for the drying of a pelt placed thereon with a leather side of the pelt stretched and held on an outer surface of the pelt board, wherein the pelt board has a longitudinal axis, a first transverse axis and a second transverse axis, a front end for engagement in a cranium end of the pelt, and a foot end which has at least one opening, wherein the pelt board has at least a first and a second arched surface with an open structure and which define a cavity, and wherein the first and second arched surfaces of the pelt board are configured in a substantially symmetrical manner around at least two of the said axes, and wherein at least one opening in the foot end is connected to said cavity, ~~according to claim 53,~~ wherein each of the first and second arched surfaces is formed on a respective one of two similarly-shaped half parts which are joined together by a locking assembly, subtending sides of said half parts defining a first plane which coincides substantially with the first transverse axis, wherein the locking assembly is arranged such that the two half parts are relatively displaceable away from and towards the first plane, between a first outer position in which a slot-shaped opening is formed between the subtending sides of the half parts, and a random position in which said sides contact each other and wherein a forcing means for locking of the half parts in the first outer position is insertable between the half parts.

60. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 59, wherein the two similar half parts comprise a first half shell and a second half shell

which, in combination, form said cavity which is open at the foot end, and wherein said cavity communicates with said surfaces via perforations or holes of the open structure.

61. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 59, wherein the locking assembly is arranged in such a manner that the two half parts are relatively displaceable away from and towards the first plane, between a first outer position in which a slot-shaped opening is formed between the edges of the half parts, and a second outer position in which the subtending sides of the half parts are positioned closer to the first plane.

62. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 60, wherein, the subtending sides of the half shells are provided with stiffeners.

63. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 62, wherein similarly shaped, laterally-reversed studs project from the stiffeners.

64. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 63, wherein the forcing means comprises a displaceable element with wedge-shaped projections which engageable and disengageable from planar sides of the studs, wherein said displaceable element is substantially plate-shaped and is disposed in the first plane between the two half shells, and is displaceable in a longitudinal direction.

65. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 64, wherein the subtending sides of the half shells comprise projecting parts which cooperate with holes and recesses in the displaceable element for orientation of and control of the extent of the longitudinal displacement of the displaceable element.

66. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 59, wherein the locking assembly comprises cooperating elements projecting from the respective subtending sides of the half parts, the cooperating elements comprising projections and projections with openings for engaging said projections, where geometries of the openings of the projections with openings and the projections are mutually proportioned in

such a manner that the projections, after being pressed in to the openings of the projections with openings, are secured in a displaceable manner therein.

67. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 59, wherein the forcing means comprises means for displacement of the half parts from a first distended position to a second outer position, and wherein edges of the half parts are brought into contact with each other by displacement of the forcing means into the retracted position.

68. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 67, wherein the forcing means comprises a displaceable element with wedge-shaped projections which engageable and disengageable from planar sides of the studs, wherein said displaceable element is substantially plate-shaped and is disposed in the first plane between the two half shells, and is displaceable in a longitudinal direction; wherein tongues are provided on the plate-shaped element, said tongues having sloping wedge surfaces which, from a plane surface nearest free ends of the tongues, decrease in a direction towards starting points of the tongues, said sloping wedge surfaces and plane surfaces cooperating with side surfaces in bridges on the subtending sides of the half parts into which bridges the tongues are introduced.

69. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 68, wherein, along a part of the side edges, the plate-shaped element further comprises V-shaped tracks for the engaging of guide pins projecting from the subtending sides of the first half part and the second half part, respectively, so that by displacement of the plate-shaped element said side edges are displaced sideways away from the longitudinal axis to a position where the side edges fill out the slot-shaped opening between the edges of the half parts.

70. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 59, wherein the forcing means comprises a stubby projecting element which extends outside the foot end of the pelt board.

71. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 70, wherein the stubby projecting element comprises counter-hold surfaces.

72. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 59, wherein the arched surfaces have a plurality of slot-shaped openings at a front end thereof.

73. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 59, wherein means for securing a nose end of a pelt placed and stretched on the pelt board is provided at the front end thereof.

74. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 73, wherein the means for securing the nose end of a pelt stretched on the pelt board comprises spaced, short, projecting parallel pins which extend from a pointed end of the respective half shell parallel with the longitudinal axis thereof.

75. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 74, wherein the area of the pointed end of the half shells between subtending sides of the pins is bevelled.

76. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 73, wherein the arched surfaces of the pelt board have spaced recesses in an area which extends from near a cranium end and towards an area of the board in which in the length in the direction of the first transverse axis and the second transverse axis essentially constant.

77. (Previously Presented) Hollow distension element pelt board according to claim 59, wherein the half parts are made of a plastic material selected from the group consisting of polymeric plastic material, fiber-reinforced plastic material, and combinations thereof.

78. (Previously Presented) Drying aggregate for use with hollow distension element pelt boards for the drying of a pelt placed thereon with a leather side of the pelt stretched and

held on an outer surface of the pelt board, the pelt board having a longitudinal axis, a first transverse axis and a second transverse axis, a front end for engagement in a cranium end of the pelt, and a foot end which has at least one opening, a first and a second arched surface with an open structure and which define a cavity and are configured in a substantially symmetrical manner around at least two of the said axes, and at least one opening that is connected to said cavity being provided in the foot end, said drying aggregate comprising:

an encapsulation which defines a cavity, and an air replacement arrangement for changing the air existing in the cavity, said encapsulation comprising at least an upwardly-facing surface with a plurality of first openings and a plurality of substantially U-shaped profile rails extending in parallel under said surface, the profile rails having openings with a geometry and number which correspond to the first openings, said first openings and the openings of the profile rails cooperating, in use, with a projecting element which extends from the foot end of a respective distension element pelt board for the supporting of at least one distension elements pelt board standing upright from the upwardly-facing surface, with the foot end of the pelt board in contact with the upwardly-facing surface, and further openings near the respective first openings at a location which, in use, lies within an area under the foot end of a respective pelt board, so that the further openings are in communication with the cavity in the respective pelt board so that the air in the cavity will be changed by replacement of the air in the cavity by the air replacement arrangement.

79. (Previously Presented) Drying aggregate according to claim 78, wherein the first openings and the further openings are arranged in parallel rows extending in the upwardly-facing surface, and wherein slots are provided in ribs of the U-shaped profile rails in which displaceable drawplates are disposed parallel with the upwardly-facing surface, said drawplates having through-going cut-outs for engaging the projecting element of a pelt board, and where each through-going cut-out comprises a projection which cooperates with a wedge-shaped, part on the projecting element, said projection being oriented in a substantially transverse manner to the longitudinal axis of the pelt board, and wherein the drawplates are displaceable into a first outer position in which the projections are not in engagement with the wedge-shaped part and a second outer position in which the projections are in engagement with the wedge-shaped part .

80. (Previously Presented) Drying aggregate according to claim 79, wherein the drawplates comprise parts extending freely through a side of the encapsulation, said parts comprising through-going openings for establishing traction facilities for displacement of the drawplates.

81. (Previously Presented) Drying aggregate according to claim 78, wherein the encapsulation comprises displaceable elements which cooperate with the counterholding surfaces of a projecting element of the pelt board for displacement of a forcing means of the pelt board for expanding of the pelt board.

82. (Previously Presented) Drying aggregate according to 78, wherein the encapsulation is mounted on wheels which make it mobile.

83. (Previously Presented) Drying aggregate according to claim 78, wherein the air replacement arrangement comprises a blower unit integrated with the encapsulation.

84. (Previously Presented) Drying aggregate according to claim 78, wherein the air replacement arrangement comprises a suction unit integrated with the encapsulation.